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Express-News: Military

Texas National Guard chief gets national post

By Sig Christenson

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/03/2001 12:00 AM

President Bush on Tuesday nominated Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, now adjutant general of the Texas National Guard, to head the Air National Guard Bureau.

James is the first black to be named to the post. His father, the late Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, was a Tuskegee airman who became the nation's first black four-star general in 1975.

James said his selection was a "proud moment." The Air National Guard post, as well as the organization itself, will have a much higher profile as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"It is a critical time," James said. "My challenge, I think, is to make sure that we make the best decisions as senior leaders for the nation, for the aerospace force, and that the National Guard is an integral part of the decision-making process."

John S. Butler, a friend of James' who is a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, applauded the appointment.

"It's just a great American story when a son can follow in the footsteps of the father, whether it's somebody going to law school like their father or somebody becoming president like their father," Butler said.

At 56, James has held the Texas Guard's top job since stepping down as vice commander of the 149th Fighter Wing in San Antonio five years ago. He expects to head the Arlington, Va.-based Air National Guard late this year or in early 2002. He will replace Lt. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr., who is retiring.



Maj. Gen. Daniel James III talks with his staff Tuesday at Camp Mabry in Austin. James has been nominated to lead the Air National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

Photo by Tom Reel/Express-News

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James was poised to head the 149th Fighter Wing when Bush selected him to head the Texas Guard. Observers saw the governor's decision to have an Air Force colonel head the predominantly Army Guard as a risk because the cultures of each organization are so different.

But two of his wing commanders, Col. Robert J. Spermo and Col. Henry C. Morrow, praised James as a consensus-builder. Morrow, commander of the 149th Fighter Wing, called James "a visionary" leader, while Spermo, commander of the 147th Fighter Wing in Houston, said James was known for making "bold" decisions.

James also led the Guard during its Bosnia peacekeeping mission last year. The 49th Armored Division was the first Guard unit to command active-duty and multinational troops in Bosnia, ending an eight-month tour with a perfect safety record.

"Under Gen. Danny James' leadership, the Texas National Guard has earned an international reputation for military excellence," said U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas. "They fought fires and floods in Texas, preserved peace in the war-torn villages of Bosnia, and patrolled the skies over Iraq."

The Cato Institute's Ivan Eland said the bond developed between James and Bush should prove critical.

"All power in the executive branch flows from the president, and if you have access or are a friend of his, everybody in Washington pays more attention to you," he said.

"Certainly the fact that the president chose me and thinks well of me is something that I appreciate," James said. "But I'm going to have to attack some very challenging issues and build consensus in areas other than just in the White House to be successful."

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10/03/2001

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Speaker says U.S. always in danger

S.A. may play role in research

By CINDY TUMIEL
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Protecting the nation against terrorism will require a full range of initiatives, including improved defense against threats and more scientific research into counter measures such as hand-held chemical detectors and new vaccines, a former Pentagon researcher said Tuesday.

The threat of terrorist strikes is a permanent reality in the United States, said Hans Mark, a University of Texas professor of aerospace engineering and former director of Defense Research and Engineering with the Department of Defense.

"There is no end to this," Mark told a Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce biotechnology group. "We are going to have to face terrorism as long as we play the role in the world that we do."

America's role in political, cultural and military conflicts around the globe has fostered pockets of intense hatred against the nation and Americans, he noted.

The government has been

working on the issue for years, Mark said during a lunch speech at the Embassy Suites Northwest.

During his three years at the Pentagon — from 1998 until last March — the bioterrorism defense budget grew from \$300 million to more than \$1 billion, Mark said.

Strategists made plans for biochemical protection of large office buildings, where experts feared terrorists could infiltrate maintenance crews and release hazardous substances into air conditioning ducts, he said.

Some chemical detection devices were developed and installed in ductwork in some locations, including in the World Trade Center, he said.

Scientists also have experimented with using ultraviolet rays to kill some biochemical agents.

Mark said San Antonio is well positioned to be a center of research into counter-terrorism measures because of the strong scientific community at area universities, foundations and military bases.

"There is a great need for research, and that is something that should be done here," Mark said.

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ROBERT MCLEROY/STAFF

Hans Mark, a former researcher for the Department of Defense, talks about biological weapons Tuesday.

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DATE 3 Oct 01

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Express-News: Metro and State

Hazmat plan called terror safeguard

By Patrick Driscoll

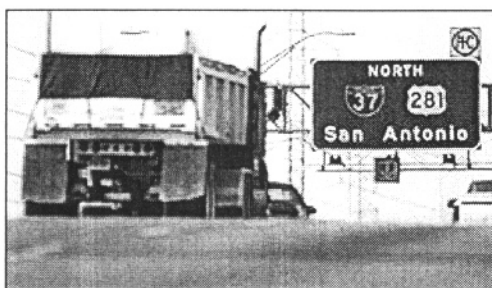
San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/03/2001 12:00 AM

A new hazardous route plan for San Antonio won't necessarily prevent terrorists from using trucks as weapons, but it is an extra safeguard, a Fire Department official said Tuesday.

Most of the signs designating routes for non-radioactive hazardous materials through San Antonio are up, and city police officers have been briefed on enforcement rules.

Four years in the making, the plan is designed to help prevent serious accidents from happening near homes and on or below elevated downtown freeways.



Most of the road signs marking the area's hazardous cargo route have been posted. The Texas Transportation Commission approved the local hazardous route plan in June.
 Photo by William Luther/Express-News

But the plan isn't a guarantee against terrorist attacks involving trucks, said Steve Worley, deputy fire chief.

"It's just an added measure we have," Worley said. "I don't know how we can feel comfortable. Our lives have changed.

"It's good to know that we have a plan that's taking effect that somewhat addresses that issue," he added.

Federal and state authorities increased scrutiny of trucks transporting hazardous materials after the Sept. 11 airliner attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Since the attacks, about 20 men, including two from Texas, have been charged with illegally obtaining licenses in Pennsylvania to haul hazardous cargo.

The Texas Transportation Commission approved the local hazardous route plan in June.

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The Texas Transportation Department has since put up 129 signs designating the routes and has just four more to install.

"By the end of this month they should be all up," said Ximena Copa-Wiggins, a spokeswoman in the transportation department's San Antonio office.

Commercial vehicles with diamond-shaped hazardous material placards on them are not allowed on the three freeways looping around downtown. And travel on other inner-city freeways, such as U.S. 90 south of downtown, is permitted only for local deliveries.

All of Loop 410 and about a half-dozen major spokes outside the loop are through routes. Most roads, including Loop 1604, can be used only for deliveries.

People who spot possible violations are urged to identify the vehicles — by company name, an identification number on the cab or trailer, or by license plate number — and note the time, day and direction of travel. They should then call the Fire Department's prevention office at (210) 207-8410.

"If the citizens help us, we'll be better able to enforce this," Worley said.

Some companies already have been using the routes.

"We've followed these routes for quite some time and really have no problem with them," said Arch Kelly, president of Mission Petroleum Carriers Inc., which operates about 30 fuel trucks in Bexar County.

The City Council adopted an ordinance in August enabling the city to enforce the rules.

Police issued a bulletin to officers two weeks ago that outlines the new law.

Police didn't provide details on enforcement.

"That's kind of like giving away our SWAT tactics," said Sgt. Gabriel Trevino.

Drivers cited for not following the routes can be fined from \$500 to \$2,000.

Officials said they don't know yet whether any such tickets have been issued.

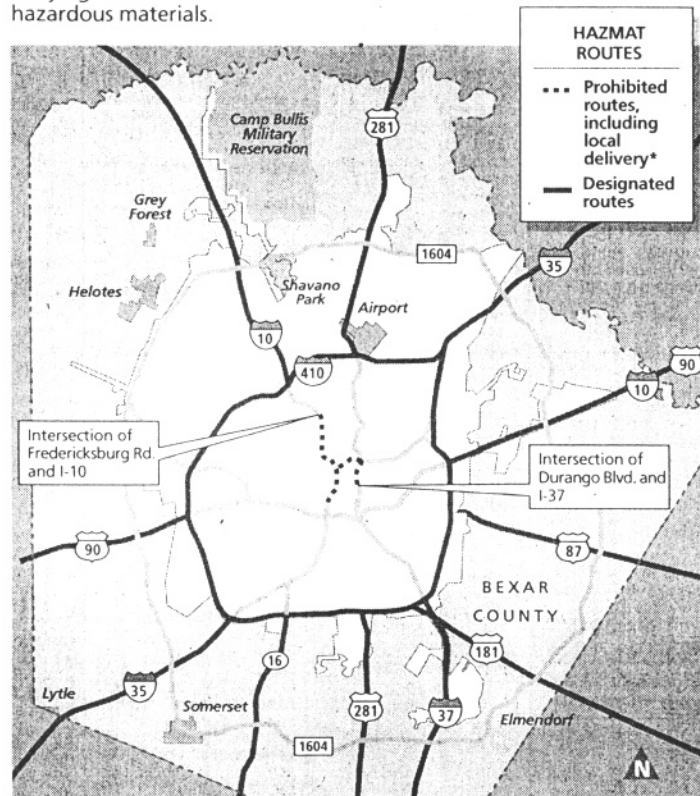
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The Texas Department of Transportation expects to finish putting up signs by the end of this month designating routes for carrying non-radioactive hazardous materials.

People who spot violations are urged to identify the vehicles — by company name, an identification number on the cab or trailer, or license plate number — and note the time, day and direction of travel and report it by calling the Fire Department's prevention office at (210) 207-8410.



*Exceptions are for vehicles turning south onto Interstate 35 from Alamo Street and those going north on I-35 from U.S. 90 to San Marcos Street.

Source: San Antonio Fire Department.

EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

Reservists get Spurs assist

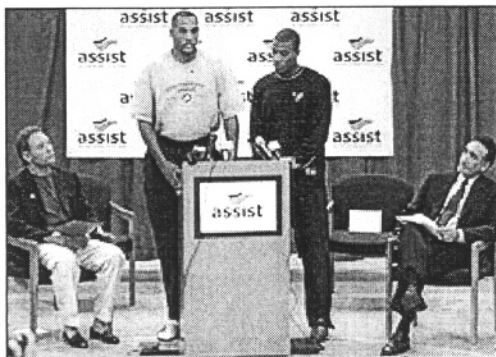
By Daryl Bell

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/03/2001 12:00 AM

Spurs stars Antonio Daniels and Steve Smith have combined for 3,495 assists, but what many consider their most significant contribution to date didn't occur during an NBA game. It came during a news conference Tuesday at Trinity University.

Daniels and Smith, along with Gregg Popovich, Spurs general manager and head coach, pledged \$25,000 to kick off the San Antonio ASSIST fund. The money raised by the fund will help offset short paychecks of San Antonio area military reservists called to duty as a result of the terrorist attacks.



San Antonio Spurs guards Steve Smith (standing left) and Antonio Daniels address the public and the media Tuesday to announce the formation of the San Antonio ASSIST Fund.

Photo by John Davenport/Express-News

ASSIST is the brainchild of Former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, chairman of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board, and of Spurs executive vice president Russ Bookbinder.

"No doubt this is the biggest assist I've ever made," Daniels said. "It's going to go a long way to helping a lot of people."

Smith, a National Basketball Association veteran who came to the Spurs in an off-season deal with the Portland Trail Blazers, agreed.

"I'm just happy to be doing something to help the community," he said. "I'm new here and feel that I should get involved. I know this situation is big."

A former reservist, Cisneros said he knew there would be financial hardships for many once the military call-ups began. He hadn't formulated a plan but was surprised when Bookbinder passed him a note during a chamber meeting last Thursday asking how the Spurs organization could help.

"It was the strangest thing," said Bookbinder. "We, as an organization, were looking at a way to get more involved in helping the community and then Henry mentions wanting to help the people of San Antonio."

After a series of calls, the San Antonio ASSIST Fund was developed.

"Everyone came together so quickly," said Cisneros. "It's amazing how

<http://news.mysanantonio.com/story.cfm?xla=saen&xlb=340&xlc=346180&xld=987>

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quickly people responded. A lot of people may not realize it, but if a person is called up, they're not receiving their regular salary. In some cases, the salary they're making while on duty is half of what they would normally make.

"We want this fund to help make up the difference in what they would normally make. They're doing a service for our country, and it's only right that we do a service for them."

During the Spurs preseason, a special coupon to be printed in the San Antonio Express-News, La Prensa, The Informer, and select Prime Time newspapers entitling the bearer to receive a free ticket to a preseason home game for every \$5 donation they make to the ASSIST Fund.

The coupon will be available in the Express-News every day except game days beginning Friday and can be redeemed weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Spurs Box Office at the Alamodome.

There will be 25,000 tickets available through this special promotion, valued from \$10-\$27. Customers can obtain as many tickets as they want.

The preseason home schedule begins Oct. 13 with the Boston Celtics. The Philadelphia 76ers will play the Spurs on Oct. 16, and the New York Knicks will be in San Antonio on Oct. 19. The Houston Rockets close out the home preseason schedule with a game on Oct. 26.

For more information, call the United Way at (210) 352-7000 or visit www.spurs.com.

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Express-News: America in Agony

Defense bill OK'd in Senate

By Carolyn Skorneck

Associated Press

Web Posted : 10/03/2001 12:00 AM

WASHINGTON — The Senate approved its \$345 billion defense spending bill without a dissenting vote Tuesday after dispensing with Republican objections that had stymied progress for a week as the nation geared up for war.

The vote was 99-0 for the bill that authorizes money for the Defense Department and the military work of the Energy Department for fiscal 2002, which began Monday.

"The men and women in the military should be able to count on us in normal times, and surely they ought to be able to count on us in these emergency times. And I believe very firmly that this bill does exactly that," Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, told the Senate.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., alluded to some tough negotiations on missile defense and other issues when he said: "We had some hard decisions to make, and I think that we made them basically together."

The only senator who did not vote was 98-year-old Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., who fainted earlier Tuesday as he sat at his desk on the Senate floor.

He was taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Just hours before the Senate endorsed the bill, it voted by a surprising 100-0 to quash delays caused by GOP efforts to attach to the defense measure both the Bush administration's energy package and a separate prison industry provision.

The roadblocks became apparent Sept. 25 as the House passed its \$343 billion defense bill by a vote of 398-17, and the demands had not been amenable to compromise.

Levin, D-Mich., said he feared the problems could kill the bill.

"That would be a horrendous message to send" to the military and the

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nation, he said.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., warned the Senate that it was risking its reputation as well as the bipartisan comity that has marked its efforts since the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I'm worried that in a few minutes, the Senate may undo all that good work of the past three weeks, and bring an end to the bipartisan cooperation that has distinguished this institution, and give the public a reason to be ashamed of us," McCain said.

He called the bill "the most important legislation we will pass since Sept. 11."

The unanimous vote to bypass the delays, when only 60 votes were needed, came after dozens of Republicans trooped into the chamber from a meeting in the office of Minority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

10/03/2001

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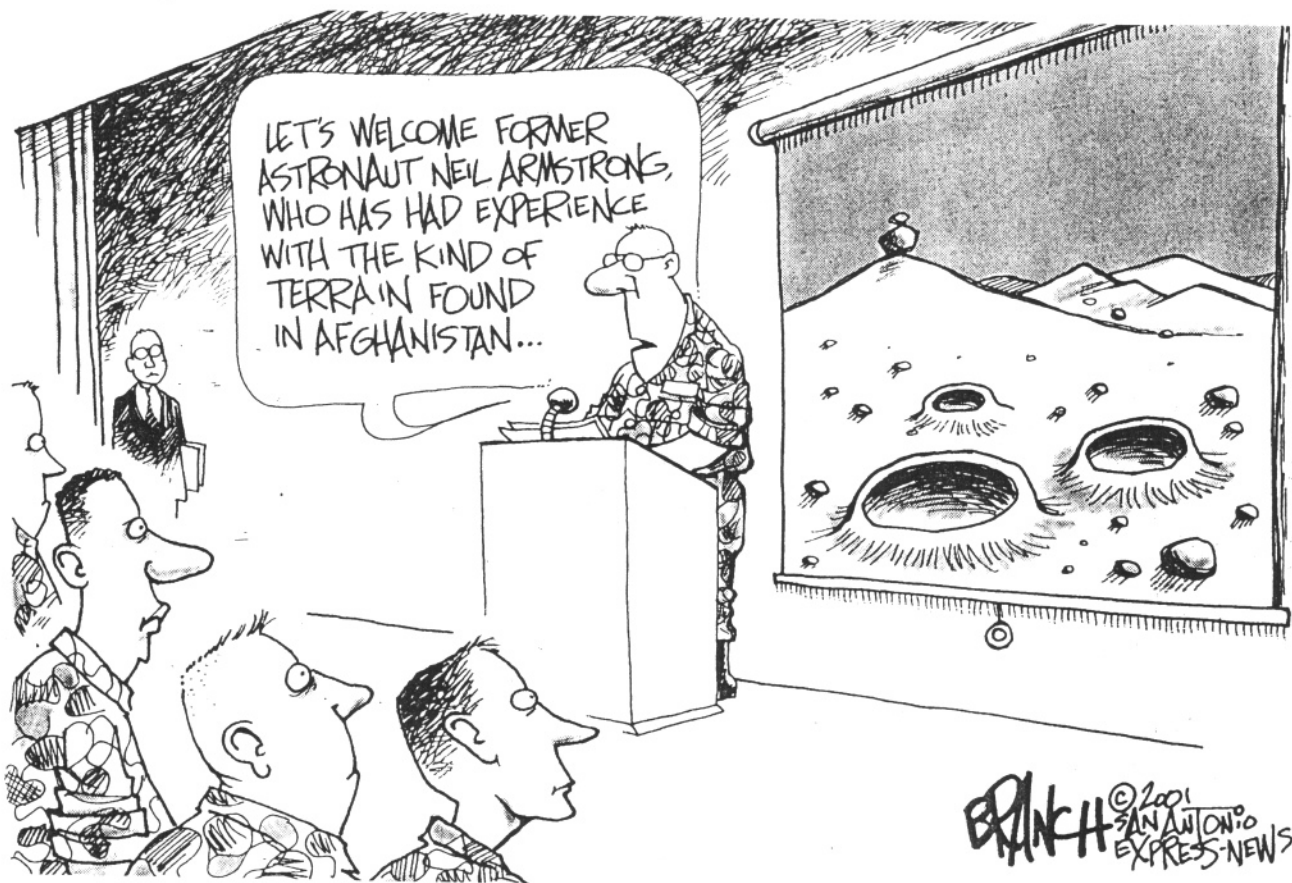


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Nacho Guarache

by Leo Garza



Express News
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FOCUS: AMERICA TARGETS TERRORISM

A war to the death

I call the present furor in the United States "the Fort Sumter syndrome." Sure, the South bombarded Fort Sumter into surrender, but it was left with a war to the death with a larger and more powerful opponent.

Sure, we can batter the Taliban in war-stricken Afghanistan, but then we are left with a war to the death with the millions of outraged Muslims throughout the world.

— Dennis Murphree

Respond with nukes

I have heard quite a bit about the possibility of chemical and biological weapons being used against our country by terrorists.

Realizing that we have agreements with various countries on the use of nuclear weapons, I think the terrorists and the countries that harbor them should be advised that if chemical or biological weapons are used against this country, we shall retaliate with nuclear weapons.

— Sidney H. Wolfson

Always put America first

I have seen a preponderance of letters implying America is somehow at fault for the terrible attacks on Sept. 11.

This being a free country, these people are welcome to state their opinion. They may crawl out from their rocks, stand on top of them and preach whatever they want.

But what they need to remember is that the freedom of speech they enjoy was paid for in blood. Few countries would allow this type of rhetoric.

The elected officials of this country

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have a sworn duty to protect this country and make it No. 1. If we can help other countries along the way, great, but America must always be first. I know of no country that thinks any differently. I know of no country as generous as America.

If a politician stated he or she wanted to make this a Third World country to appease the rest of the world, that person would never be elected.

— Ron Harr, Natalia

Go away and stay away

Someone should tell Jesse Jackson that the United States has a president and duly appointed and confirmed officials to represent the United States in foreign relations.

We do not need a profiteering opportunist who pops up at every crisis, and just as quickly disappears, to represent us.

If a foreign government wants to talk with us, they should do it with



JACKSON

our government officials through recognized diplomatic channels.

— James Williams

Proof God loves U.S.

From Jerry Falwell on, they just don't get it. If God had indeed forsaken the United States, Al Gore would have been president on Sept. 11.

— C.F. Eckhardt, Seguin

A couple of problems

I have two concerns about America's reactions to the terrorist attacks.

First, people are confusing nationalism with patriotism. It is one thing to love one's country and another to think one's country can do no wrong. Americans need to avoid an "us vs. them" mentality, or we risk becoming "them." Those who do wrong should be punished, but not at the expense of other innocents.

Second, people are saying that the surrender of liberties is a small price to pay for security.

Forgive me, but I will not give up the liberties so many of my family members fought for just to feel more secure. Instead, I call on my government to be innovative and protect my liberties, the reason I remain an American.

— Kayla Kromer

Why target them?

I cannot understand all this violence toward Arab-Americans. I don't remember any violence toward white trash when we discovered Timothy McVeigh was the terrorist in the Oklahoma City bombing.

— Francisco J. Castillo

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FOCUS: MEDIA COVERAGE

FBI can handle it

I feel it is extremely irresponsible for reporters to have gone around the neighborhood of the Arabic doctor who was held by the FBI, showing pictures of the alleged hijackers.

If that was necessary, I'm sure the FBI would have sent someone to do the job.

This is persecution and a violation of civil rights. This type of journalism could fuel vigilantes, who could take matters into their own hands.

— Cindy LeSieur

Call-in hatred

The tragedy that befell New York was a despicable act of terrorism. The anger and sadness that fills American hearts is both justified and warranted. The last thing a nation in mourning needs is a radio station capitalizing on the tragedy to boost ratings.

Recently, KZEP encouraged listeners to call in and verbally attack those who pray for peace and don't necessarily see war as the answer. Sure, the station might profess to accept the views of all callers, but the underlying message is clearly one of hate.

Ironically, this station's format is "classic rock," the music spawned by

the last "wacko" movement that sang, "Give peace a chance" and, "War — what is it good for?"

— Joe M. Velasquez

Sept. 11, S.A.-style

After the Sept. 11 attacks, I tuned into WOAI to hear some intelligent rhetoric. Instead I heard a bunch of teenyboppers who had trouble putting two sentences together. They were egged on by their hosts, who praised them for their "contribution."

Then there is the KMOL morning crew, which doesn't know the difference between "God Save the Queen" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Puro San Antonio?

— Jo Ann Thabet

Loose lips still sink ships

As I was watching the news on KENS recently, I was concerned by a "story."

In April, Paul Deanno had done an interesting piece on the USS Enterprise and some of the sailors from this area. Running this story again is not what concerned me; it was when he gave the general location of the vessel and where he got his information. Then the anchor explained how far offshore it was.

To almost pinpoint a warship for the enemy is not appropriate news coverage.

The war is all around us. We need to be careful what we say, because you never know who is listening — or maybe even watching television.

— Don Wyman

Veterans mocked

The week of the terrorist attack, cartoonist Garry Trudeau did not change his theme in "Doonesbury," which mocked American veterans. The character was a millionaire veteran who had been a clerk in World War II. He was discussing his memoirs with his son.

This past year, many veterans were asked to tell of their WWII experiences. Most had remained silent because grim and painful experiences are relived when these memories are called up.

To print this cartoon during a week of national tragedy, with Reserves being called up and firefighters and police collecting body parts, is almost cruel.

Trudeau was mocking veterans. By printing these strips, the Express-News showed a gross lack of sensitivity for those who serve.

— Stephen C. Grigory,
Spring Branch

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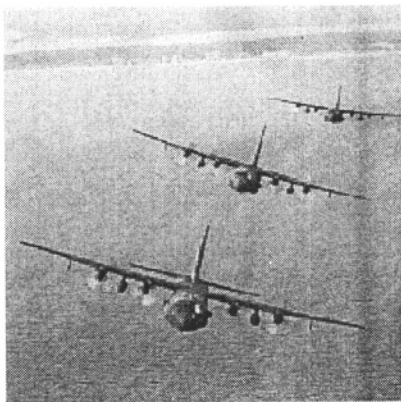
Express News
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Conflict Could Test Special Ops Improvements

ROBERT WALL/WASHINGTON

The Pentagon's widely expected use of special operations forces in response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks will hold up to scrutiny a 15 year U.S. effort to improve those highly specialized warfighting capabilities.

Antiterrorism missions have long been one of the primary activities for special operations units. In almost all the major regional theaters, countering terrorist actions or their cells has ranked as one of the top three priorities. That includes the U.S. Central Command responsible for Afghanistan and the Middle East.



USAF has 24 MC-130Hs which can fly long distances in adverse weather to clandestinely air-drop special operations units in enemy territory.

In fact, an encounter between U.S. special operations units and Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network would not be the first confrontation between the two sides. Al Qaeda has claimed a hand in the failed U.S. special forces attempt to capture Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid in 1993. The raid resulted in the death of 18 U.S. troops.

The major push to improve U.S. special operations began in 1986 in response to what Congress perceived as a series of blunders, including the unsuccessful rescue of hostages held at the U.S. Embassy in Teheran in 1980. The Fiscal 1987 defense authorization act created a unified structure, the U.S. Special Operations Command (Socom), to hone the skills and improve the readiness of those units. The command now consists of about 46,000 personnel.

"We are at the final exam here," said Maj. Gen. (ret.) William C. Moore, chairman of the special operations division for the National Defense Industrial Assn. "My assessment is the forces are ready," he added. However, he also noted that like the rest of the military, special operations units have suffered readiness problems during the past few years. Those now need to be addressed quickly.

Socom's creation was followed by the establishment of a "major force program," a dedicated budget line for the organization. Substantial funding for special operations forces [SOF] still comes from the unit's parent services, the Army, Navy and Air Force. Nevertheless, the dedicated purse, now about \$3.7 billion a year, is supposed to give Socom some independence. The money is generally used to modify equipment for special operations

purposes or to buy unique gear.

One concern has been that the services would reduce their support because Socom has its own funds. Moore noted that occasionally tension has arisen and that it would be useful to spell out in greater detail the responsibilities of the parent services.

Using its pot of money, Socom in recent years has managed to upgrade its sizeable airborne force, which comprises more than 250 special mission fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. The steady stream of improvements have concentrated on extending the aircrafts' range and enabling them to operate in poor weather. The modifications reflect a shift of focus from operations in Europe to the Third World. Socom officials several years ago recognized they would need to prepare for action in more remote locations, traverse greater distances and deal with worse climates, a recent planning document states.

These units also would play a large role in any potential combat search and rescue missions. Although the Air Force's primary rescue aircraft, the HH-60Gs, are assigned to Air Combat Command, the service's Special Operations Command (AFSOC) in almost all cases has to support the rescue efforts or carry them out alone. In fact, USAF officials are struggling to field a new generation combat search and rescue system.

Air Force special operations units are assigned either to AFSOC or the Air National Guard and Reserve. AFSOC has two Special Operations Wings, the 16th SOW at Hurlburt Field, Fla., and the 58th SOW at Kirtland AFB, N.M. Furthermore, there are two overseas locations, the 352nd Special Operations Group stationed at RAF Mildenhall in the U.K. and the 353rd SOG at Kadena AB, Japan.

The active duty units are complemented by the 919th Special Operations Reserve Wing at Duke Field, Fla., adjacent to Hurlburt. Additionally, the 193rd Special Operations Air National Guard Wing at Harrisburg, Pa., operates all the Air Force's EG130 Commando Solo airborne broadcast systems.

The Army, too, has a large airborne special operations contingent, with more than 100 helicopters in various configurations, primarily associated with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Ft. Campbell, Ky. Collocated there is the 5th Special Operations Forces Group, which has recently had forces deployed to Pakistan and the Middle East.

The Army's inventory consists of 11 MH47Ds and 25 MH-47Es used primarily to drop off or extract forces behind enemy lines. Another MH-47E is being added to replace one destroyed in an accident in 1996. Furthermore, the MH-47Ds are being converted into the more advanced "E" configuration. An MH-47E is designed to fly undetected over enemy territory and carry out a 5.5-hr. mission covering a 300-naut.-mi. combat radius, according to its manufacturer, Boeing.

Additionally, the Army has 23 MH-60K and 37 MH-60L armed Black Hawks. The aircraft will also be the first to field the Army's newest infrared countermeasures gear, the advanced threat infrared countermeasures system (Atircm). It uses a laser to spoof infrared seeking missiles. However, because of delays in the program, it won't be ready for any near-term operations.

The Army also can draw on 19 of the smaller AH-6J and 18 MH-6J Little Bird aircraft for troop insertion and attacks. The helicopters are equipped to carry both guns and rockets and a small number of special operations troops. Both aircraft are being prepared for an engine upgrade using the Allison 250-C30R/3 engine with full authority digital flight control software. The helicopters are usually used for shorter range insertion or troop extraction.

AFSOC's helicopter fleet of 36 MH-53J Pave Low IIIs is nearing the end of its service life. In fact, next year the Army is to deploy six

MH-47Es to Taegu, South Korea, to replace MH-53Js stationed at Osan AB, South Korea. The MH-47Es are supposed to fill the gap until AFSOC can field the CV-22, a more capable, special operations version of the Marine Corps' MV-22 tiltrotor. Problems with the V-22 have slowed its fielding, exacerbating a shortage in assets.

MH-53Js have recently undergone an upgrade to put enhanced situational awareness gear on the helicopter, mainly the multimission advanced tactical terminal. It allows SOF units to receive updated intelligence information en route to their target, including the disposition of enemy air defense systems. The aircraft, primarily used for low-level, long-range operations in enemy territory to support special operations troops on the ground, are armed with three 7.62-mm. mini-guns or three 0.50-caliber machine guns.

AFSOC also has 21 MC-130H Combat Talon II aircraft for low-level, adverse weather and long-range operations to drop, extract or resupply special operations units. Three more of the aircraft are associated with the Air Education and Training Command. The recent focus of USAF efforts on the MC-130H has been on correcting problems with the infrared detection system.

One of the distinctions of Combat Talon is that one of the aircraft dropped the largest-ever conventional bomb during the Persian Gulf war, the 15,000-lb., 54-in.-dia. BLU-82 that has a blast/fragmentation warhead.

The Air Force plans to add a refueling capability to the MC-130H, so it can augment the fleet of 24 MC-130Ps that have aerial refueling of other special operations assets as their primary mission. But development problems have resulted in delays.

For close air support of special operations units, the Air Force could contribute 13 AC-130Us and eight older AC-130H gunships. The newer AC-130U has the ability to engage two targets with its three-gun weapons suite, primarily because it has been equipped with dual, independent fire-control channels on its databus. It recently underwent an upgrade to the radar to provide higher resolution and to more accurately strike targets.

Moreover, the AC-130s can fire the IMP 105, an improved 105-mm. high-fragmentation round designed to harm personnel and light targets, such as trucks and tents, in a relatively small, contained area to minimize harm to people in the vicinity.

The entire AC/MC-130 fleet has undergone a low-band jammer modification to protect the aircraft from early detection by surveillance radars. Other electronic warfare upgrades also have been introduced in recent years, including Northrop Grumman's directed infrared countermeasures (Dircm) system and the ALE47 chaff and flare dispenser designed to defeat more modern infrared and radio-frequency air defense missiles than its predecessor, the ALE-40. A high-power towed decoy addition is planned that would use the ALQ-172 as a techniques generator. Officials also have been examining active noise reduction systems.

To what extent the service will try to use the Commando Solo propaganda aircraft is unclear. Television and radio have been largely banned by the Taliban, which could diminish the effectiveness of the system. The Air Force has six EG130s for that mission, which are now being re-hosted on C-130Js. AFSOC officials wanted to put the broadcast suite on Boeing 767s for longer reach, but Congress overruled that and opted for the C-130J.

Socom also has one EC-137 command and control aircraft that is undergoing communications upgrades. The aircraft serves as a dedicated airborne communications link for special operations units.

An important new piece of equipment being fielded is the special

operations tactical video system. It allows troops on the ground to relay in near-real-time digital imagery and could allow almost instantaneous battle damage assessment or video to be provided of an intended target before a strike is authorized.

The critical element of any special operations activity would be the forces on the ground. The two U.S. units most directly dedicated to fighting terrorism are the Army's Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, or Delta Force, and the Navy Special Warfare Development Group, referred to as Devgru.

Furthermore, the Army's ground element consists of the Special Forces Command, more commonly known as the Green Berets, and the 75th Ranger Regiment based at Ft. Benning, Ga., which includes three battalions. The Green Berets are divided into five regional Special Forces Groups (SFGs) in large part because of language training and to gain regional expertise.

For the Air Force, the forces that would be inserted are provided by the 720th Special Tactics Group at Hurlburt Field. They include special operations combat controllers and pararescuemen. The group has six Special Tactics Squadrons (STS).

Despite the limited budget, \$525.3 million in procurement this year and \$245 million for research and development, AFSOC planners hope to field a leap in technology in the coming years. The command has long-term goals for a stealthy transport, MC-X, capable of carrying 20,000 lb. on a 1,000-naut.-mi. combat radius. Similarly, the AC-X is envisioned as a stealthy, next-generation gunship. To finance the development, AFSOC officials have been trying to convince other Air Force officials they should join the project. They argue that the growing force of stealthy aircraft, B2s, F-117s, and soon F-22s and Joint Strike Fighters, will need a low-observable refueling aircraft, which could be the same airframe as MC-X and AC-X.


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AETC
BASES

News Clips

Compiled by AETC Public Affairs

Examining area bases' roles during wartime

Lynda Stringer

Times Record News

If the troop buildup in the Middle East becomes anything like Operation Desert Storm 10 years ago, some changes could be in store for Sheppard Air Force Base.

But, a retired instructor pilot doesn't foresee any major changes in the base's wartime role.

"Sheppard is strictly a training base and from a pilot standpoint, there won't be any increase at all," said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Drew Nichols, who is a former instructor pilot with the 90th Flying Training Squadron.

Nichols, who flew 20 combat missions in an F-117 during the Persian Gulf War, retired from Sheppard just recently and was supposed to start flying for a major airline until the terrorist attacks put a wrench in his plans.

"I was hired as a pilot for American Airlines on Monday (Sept. 10), then this thing happened on Tuesday and they fired me Wednesday," Nichols said.

As the events since then have unfolded, Nichols said the situation in many ways resembles what happened a decade years ago.

"The initial buildup, getting the coalition together, getting everybody behind the terrorism thing, in that respect it looks like it's going in the same direction," he said.

The difference is the lack of a

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short-term goal.

"In Desert Storm the goal was to get Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait, as soon as we did that, we quit," Nichols said. "Here it's going to be harder to get a hold of or stop (Osama) bin Laden. Hopefully, we'll do one good surgical strike and find him, but there's a lot of places he can hide and it may be long and drawn out."

A surge in training at Sheppard is part of a contingency plan Sheppard has in place to meet the Air Force's needs, but Sheppard officials declined to say if that plan has been activated.

Dave Smith, Air Education and Training Command spokesman, said the potential is there to increase the training capacity in certain specialties, but the ability to ramp up the training capacity is based on equipment, facilities, instructors and support personnel.

"In some tech training courses, with additional instructors we can expand training in existing facilities by employing a second or third training shift," Smith said. "Others might require additional personnel and equipment to increase training output."

Smith said he'd be speculating if he went into any specific courses "because we don't know at this point what the requirements of the Air Force are going to be," he said.

Smith did say AETC has three technical training centers that do not duplicate types of training, so courses at Sheppard are unique to that base, like a water purification course that trains military members in methods of finding and purifying water sources in the desert.

During Desert Storm, the course was expanded, as was a base building course to train personnel to set up complete encampments in the desert.

Nichols said he couldn't speak to training on the other side of the base, but "those kids could go over there pretty quick and the base is pretty full up on how many they can train, like some of the crew chiefs," he said.

As far as pilot training, Nichols said, "For us to increase our training out here ... for them to do that it would have to be something really drawn-out for us to increase production, in my opinion."

Sheppard officials confirmed last week there have been "a small number of deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," but officials declined to say how many and which specialties the troops are from.

At Altus AFB, base spokesman Gwen Brewer confirmed an estimated 50 to 100 deployments, while Fort Sill

Army Post, near Lawton, Okla., has not deployed any troops to the Middle East yet.

All three bases remain on a heightened level of security, officials said, and vehicle inspections with bomb dogs continue, although randomly, rather than continuously as in the first few days after the terrorist attacks.

Brewer, while she could not be specific about numbers and squadrons, said the base has deployed small groups at different times to supplement security forces, legal services, medical personnel, contracting and civil engineers.

"While they don't deploy as a group, they do deploy within those skills codes," Brewer said.

During Desert Storm, Altus, which is part of Air Mobility Command and trains on the C-5, C-17 and the KC-135 — cargo and troop carriers and in-flight re-fueling planes

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— Brewer said there was some troop and cargo movements from the base, but the mission was and still is training.

"If necessary, our aircraft would be used, but right now we're concentrating on training," she said.

Fort Sill Public Affairs spokeswoman Nancy Elliott said while no units have been deployed or are on alert, "that doesn't mean they are not preparing just as a matter of routine," she said.

The Army post is a basic training facility, but also acts as a mobilization center and is home to the largest contingent of field artillery in the world.

The III Armored Corps Artillery units' main mission "is to remain ready to fight the fight," Elliott said. In the build-up for Desert Storm, 5,400 soldiers joined Middle East forces.

Newspaper clippings from the *Times Record News*' archives report much more openly the specifics of how many and which units were deployed to the Gulf region during Desert Storm.

With the attacks on American soil, there has been a clamp down on information being released from all military installations and top military officials.

"We're in a whole new ballgame," said Elliott, who was in media relations during the 1991 war. "This is not Desert Storm. Operational security is not just two words anymore."

"We have to be much more cautious than we've ever been before. As a country we feel threatened. It affects everything we put out to the world."

Desert Storm deployment

Sheppard AFB:

60 airmen deployed to Saudi Arabia

■ 44 members of the 3750th Security Police Squadron who guarded a Saudi Arabian air base.

■ 16 others from including: civil engineers, a chaplain, disaster preparedness personnel, transportation, communications, medical services, postal and services squadron members that managed housing, laundry, dining halls and food services and morale, welfare and recreation.

■ Sheppard Hospital doubled its 125-bed capacity to serve as a major receiving center for Desert Storm battlefield casualties after they were stabilized. It handled patients from the theater of

operations whose family was in the area.

It also was a major psychiatric treatment center during the war. Up to 80 percent of its beds were available for psychiatric patients.

■ 318 graduates of the 80th Flying Training Wing's Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training program, including 296 from the U.S., 12 from the United Kingdom and 10 from Italy served in combat during Desert Storm.

Fort Sill Army Post:

■ 5,400 soldiers deployed from the III Armored Corps Artillery. Its members are permanently stationed at Fort Sill and train to fire and maintain cannons, rockets and missiles.

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Enid commissioners to consider sales tax vote

By Robert Barron
Staff Writer

Enid city commissioners will consider calling an election Dec. 11 to raise \$700,000 in sales tax revenues to fund renovations at Eisenhower Elementary School.

The city and Enid Board of Education have been discussing how to finance the improvements to Eisenhower, which is adjacent to Vance Air Force Base. Eisenhower has been identified by the Air Force as a needed community improvement to support Vance. City officials have called Eisenhower improvements an economic development issue important to the future of Vance, particularly in light of a Bush administration call for

another round of base closings. Base closings were proposed in the U.S. Senate defense appropriations bill, but the language was not included in the House bill. Both bills were approved last week.

U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., is opposed to another round of closings, as are many other U.S. representatives. A House-Senate conference committee will work out details of a compromise bill, which will be presented to both houses in final form. Conference have not yet been named, so it is possible there will be no base closings in 2003 as scheduled.

The Eisenhower renovation quarter-cent tax, if approved by the city, would not raise the sales tax in Enid. Rather, it would take effect when the quarter-cent tax passed to Jure StarTex

to Enid expires. That tax will expire when the \$2.5 million the city used to help the company located in Enid is paid back. Officials believe that will be in April.

The Eisenhower school tax would require six to seven months to collect, based on current sales tax figures. The tax would expire at that time, said City Attorney Carol Lahtman. However, the Oklahoma Tax Commission cannot stop collecting a tax in the middle of a month, she said, and there may be an overlap in collections, resulting in additional revenue. Any additional revenue would be used for street repairs, Lahtman said.

Eisenhower is considered a major stumbling block in the community's effort to ensure Vance survives another

round of base closings. Enid school district officials have declared Eisenhower their top priority.

Most classes at Eisenhower are held in portable classrooms.

The city would call the sales tax election based on a state law allowing cities to help school districts within their boundaries.

Mike Cooper, member of the Vance Development Authority, said the Eisenhower school renovation is an economic development issue. In a recent interview, Cooper said all of Enid's schools have needs, but Eisenhower is the greatest priority.

Any agreement reached between the city and the school district would be contingent on the sales tax passing.

The Enid school board considered

a scaled-down renovation plan during its meeting Monday night. The issue proposed is an \$830,000 project, with the school district pledging nearly \$150,000.

The project would include four new classrooms, handicapped restrooms and renovation of the existing building. Special education classes, which occupy most of the Eisenhower building, would be moved to other locations, creating additional space. The project includes removing portable buildings, some of which are 20 years old.

If the tax is approved, the school district would receive the money by May and would begin construction during the summer, with planned completion by the time school starts next year.

Board approves Eisenhower renovation plan

By Nora McKay
Staff Writer

Enid's Board of Education committed to an \$830,000 building and renovation project at Eisenhower Elementary Monday night.

The four-room addition and school remodeling effort will eliminate the need for eight portable classrooms that currently house most of the school's students.

Located on Fox Drive, adjacent to Vance Air Force Base, Eisenhower is both an educational and economic concern for the community.

In addition to the district's contribution of \$130,000 from the 1997 bond issue interest account and the fiscal year 2003 building fund, the board has accepted the city's proposal to contribute \$700,000 to the project. The city's

portion of the funding is contingent on voters agreeing in a Dec.

11 election to extend the one-quarter percent sales tax. If voters approve the sales tax, the city would move \$700,000 to the district by March 6, 2002, and bids would be considered at the March school board meeting, said Superintendent Ken Keithly. Construction and renovation could begin next summer.

Traditionally, school districts pay for building construction with bonds paid off by property taxes — making both city involvement and the tax source unusual in the Eisenhower plan.

"If we hadn't worked together, we would have had to call a bond issue. This is kind of a new adventure for both the city and the school," Keithly said.

Initially the project was slated as a 10-room addition but was downsized as a result of the district's decision to relocate Eisenhower's special needs stu-

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denis, Keithly said.

"We do have plenty of classroom space to relocate those special ed classes throughout the district," Keithly said. "We haven't made final decisions where all those will be located."

In other board business, members:

- Approved the annual estimate of needs for fiscal year 2001-2002.
- Added journalism courses as accepted criteria for graduates' certificate of distinction.
- Selected Brochu Roofing for Taft Elementary roof flashing

repairs and replacements.

- Changed an order to include another portable classroom for lighting renovation at Harrison Elementary.
- Recognized Darrell Herndon as National Tennis Coach of the Year.

Hired Patricia Cole, Hayes, second-grade teacher; Kelli LaFrance, Adams fifth-grade teacher; and Shalea Lingo-Bennett, Eisenhower kindergarten teacher.

- Heard district results on Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Criterion Referenced Tests.

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Board: Vance union workers not bound by right to work

By Scott Fitzgerald
Staff Writer

A National Labor Relations Board member confirmed Friday workers contracted with DynCorp and Trend Western at Vance Air Force Base are not bound by a right-to-work proposition passed by state voters.

Voters approved State Question 695 on Tuesday by a margin of 54 percent to 46 percent.

Oklahoma becomes the 22nd state to ban labor contracts from requiring workers to pay union dues.

"This does not apply to those

work places at federal enclaves or military installations," said Frank Melinda of the NLRB.

Melinda said the labor law stems from a U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding a 1977 case in Texas in which the machinists union challenged the right-to-work law.

Trey Davis of Oklahoma Department of Labor also confirmed recent passage of SQ 695 would not affect unions, like International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, that are contracted at

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federal installations.

The new law could take effect, however, after a contract expires, Davis said.

Jerry McCune, directing business representative for IAMAW Local Lodge 898, which represents up to 900 workers contracted with DynCorp and Trend Western at Vance, said that would be a highly unlikely proposition come contract time.

"It will probably not be an issue come contract time unless they (DynCorp/Trend Western) want problems," McCune said.

Prohibiting contracts requiring workers to pay dues or bargaining fees to be employed in union work places creates "a very disruptive" work place, McCune said.

Animosity naturally becomes prevalent when workers get the same benefits and privileges for free as opposed to someone who pays for the same benefits,

McCune said.

IAMAW Local 898's contract with DynCorp/Trend Western is effective through June 8, 2003.

John Sellers, who opposed passage of SQ 695 and debated Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin on public access television on the measure, said the news further confirms what he argued prior to the election.

"I think when all is told, the law affects approximately 16,000 people in Oklahoma. I guarantee that number is in the mid-teens somewhere. And we could have spent the \$10 million used in this election by both sides on serious issues," Sellers said.

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